Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

288. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Iran are discussing to lay a pipeline for transportation of gas to India;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India expressed its concern over pilferage of gas in some of the countries enroute India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that Iran has agreed to bear 50 per cent cost of the project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India and Iran are studying all aspects of supply of Iranian gas to India, including different modes of transportation, route options and related political, security, economic and technical issues. The deep-water offshore gas pipeline will involve laying of pipeline in deep sea water at a depth of about 3600 meters for a larger part of the route. The deep-water offshore gas pipeline will be outside Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Pakistan.

(c) and (d) Regarding the onland gas pipeline option from Iran to India crossing Pakistan, there are security concerns which have to be addressed to India's satisfaction.

(e) and (f) Funding aspects of the project have not been discussed.

Demand for LPG

†289. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demand for LPG is constantly increasing in the country;

(b) if so, what was the demand of LPG during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04, separately;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the estimate of its demand during the year 2004-05;

(d) the total quantum of LPG imported during the said period;

(e) its price during the same period, separately; and

(f) the countries from which gas was purchased alongwith country-wise rates?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demand of LPG during the years 2002-03 and 2003-04 was 8,352 Thousand Metric Tons (TMT) and 9,307 (provisional) TMT respectively.

(c) The estimated demand of LPG during the year 2004-05 is 10,127 TMT.

(d) The total quantity of LPG imported during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and by the parallel marketeers was 1,073 TMT and 1,708 TMT respectively.

(e) The price of imported LPG has been in the range of $ 210-330 per Metric Tonne during the year 2003-04.

(f) LPG was imported mainly from 4 countries namely Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait and Malaysia. The cost price of the LPG imported from any of these countries is the same in a month and was within the range of $ 210-330 per MT during 2003-04.

ONGC Videsh's Overseas Projects

290. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC Videsh has invested for exploration and production of crude oil in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms of which these investments have been made, benefits expected and the risk factors involved?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL) has been acquiring Participating Interests in exploration blocks and